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October 16, 1979

Mrs. Rowena Stewart
Executive Director
The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society
45 Hamilton Street
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Rowena:

Many thanks for your recent letter and supportive comments on behalf of the Afro-American Studies Program at Brown University known as RITES AND REASON.

Unfortunately, the proposal from RITES AND REASON to the Arts Endowment was not brought to my attention until after a decision on it had been reached by the review panel and by the National Council on the Arts. It would have been inappropriate for me to intervene at this point in the review process.

In order to help resolve the difficult situation being faced by RITES AND REASON, I arranged a meeting at the Arts Endowment last week at which Professor Bass and his colleagues from Brown met with Deputy Chairman Mary Ann Tighe and officials of the Expansion Arts Program.

As a result of this meeting, the Endowment has agreed to perform an audit and on-site inspection of RITES AND REASON. When this has been completed, it is my hope that some financial assistance will be forthcoming to tide the organization over until the next regular grant round.

I appreciate knowing of your interest in this vital university/community program and assure you that I will continue to do all I can to assist it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

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